

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO, BL

SUBJ: NIKOLA TESLA COMMEMORATION

REF: STATE 212337

1. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE PEGGED TO QUESTIONS
PARA 2 REFTEL. YUGOSLAV MOTIVATION IN SEEKING US
COOPERATION TO HONOR TESLA SEEMS TWOFOLD. FIRST,
YUGOSLAVIA HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUBLICIZE THE
CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENCE OF ONE OF ITS FAMOUS
CITIZENS WHO WORKED MANY YEARS IN THE USA. SECOND,
THE CO-SPONSORSHIP WITH THE USA POLITICALLY WOULD
DEMONSTRATE TO THE GOB THE DISTINCTNESS OF YUGOSLAVIA'S
RELATIONS WITH USG COMPARED TO US RELATIONS WITH
OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. BOLIVIANS MIGHT
REGISTER MILD SURPRISE BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THERE
WOULD BE ANY BOLIVIAN CONCERN OF ANTIPATHY. USG
PARTICIPATION PROBABLY WOULD NOT AFFECT OUR INTERESTS
IN BOLIVIA IN ANY WAY. IF PARTICIPATION ENHANCED EITHER
COUNTRY'S PRESTIGE, IT WOULD BE THAT OF YUGOSLAVIA.
SOME BOLIVIANS MIGHT PLACE A POLITICAL INTERPRETATION
ON USG COOPERATION WITH YUGOSLAVIA BUT MOST INFORMED
OBSERVERS REALIZE THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAS ENJOYED A
SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH US AND OTHER OECD COUNTRIES
FOR SEVERAL YEARS. ADDITIONALLY, DURING THE BICENTEN-
NIAL YEAR, ETHNIC GROUPS IN THE US HAVE HONORED

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DISTINGUISHED IMMIGRANTS IN A DEMONSTRATION OF THE

VARIED ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF THE UNITED STATES. OUR
CO-SPONSORSHIP OF TESLA COMMEMORATION MIGHT BE
IDENTIFIED WITH SUCH EVENTS.

2. AS FOR QUESTIONS IN PARA THREE REFTEL: EXHIBIT
IS SCALED-DOWN VERSION OF YUGOSLAV CONTRIBUTION TO
BICENTENNIAL. IT WILL CONTAIN PANELS AND SLIDE SHOW.
MIMEOGRAPHED HANDOUTS WILL BE GIVEN TO GENERAL PUBLIC,
PRINTED PAMPHLETS TO SELECTED VISITORS. MATERIALS
APPEAR REFLECT PRIDE THAT TESLA WAS BORN IN
YUGOSLAVIA; ARE NOT POLEMIC; AND DOES NOT EXTOLL
YUGOSLAVIA.

3. EMBASSY HAS NOTIFIED YUGOSLAVS THAT WE CANNOT CO-
SPONSOR LA PAZ EXHIBIT, BUT THAT WE MAY BE ABLE
COOPERATE WITH EXHIBITS IN ORURO, COCHABAMBA, SANTA
CRUZ. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ADVISE US IF CO-SPONSORSHIP
IN FUTURE EXHIBITS APPROPRIATE.
STEDMAN

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